

# A DAY OF FLOODS.

Remarkably Heavy Rains Swell the Creeks of this Section

## CAUSING FLOODS THROUGHOUT

Ohio and Marshall Counties and Over the River in Ohio.

## THREE PERSONS WERE DROWNED

Two Over in Belmont County and a Little Girl on Turkey Run in Marshall County—Baltimore & Ohio Passenger Station in Wheeling Partially Wrecked—Terminal Trestle Gives Way Before the Rush of the Waters—Two Railroad Bridges Destroyed at Moundsville—Railroad Traffic Suspended—Steamboats Do Transfer Work.

A very destructive rain storm, that at one time almost approached the volume of a cloud-burst, occurred in this vicinity early yesterday morning, and caused immense loss to property and the loss of three lives and injuries to many others. The rain fell heavily in the interior of Ohio and Marshall counties and over in Belmont county, Ohio, Sunday night, but it was not until about 2 o'clock yesterday morning that the rain came down

In the afternoon a section of the trestle at Eoff street gave way and carried with it Mr. J. H. Rosenberg, an old citizen, who was watching the passing flood. He was thrown to the edge of the creek, a distance of about fifteen feet. Spectators soon rescued him from his perilous position, and he was removed to his home on the South Side. Mr. Rosenberg is a stone contractor, and is the father-in-law of Mr. Harry Seybold. His injuries were not considered very serious, though a sprained back caused some alarm.

This was the only accident to persons in the city.

## EAST OF THE CITY.

A Scene of Devastation Along the Bottoms of Big and Middle Wheeling Creeks—A Life Lost in Marshall County.

The scene along the bottoms of Big Wheeling and Middle Wheeling creeks as seen yesterday afternoon after the flood had begun to subside was one of destruction and devastation. At the stone bridge of the Baltimore & Ohio road, just before the tunnel is reached, there is a acre on acre of wreckage heaped up against the bridge. It is estimated that the farmers of the two Wheeling creeks have lost in the neighborhood of 10,000 chickens, and of that number it appears as though one-half have lodged against the Baltimore & Ohio bridge east of the city. In fact, there is a city of hen houses piled up there, but it is a city of the dead.

Farther out the creek in the neighborhood of Mt. de Chantal, the bottom lands were overtopped by the creek yesterday morning and great damage done to cultivated fields. Mr. Lewis Steenrod estimates that his loss will reach \$700, and others have lost about as much. It will be a difficult matter to get an estimate of the loss on crops, but the figure will reach into the tens of thousands without doubt.

The waters were beyond the limits of the creek at a number of places between

der the circumstances given them in the transfer. The first trip was made, leaving Moundsville at noon and a second trip was made by the same boat late in the afternoon. The Eliza H. was also used in transferring.

An intelligence reporter made the trip from Wheeling and return and viewed the scene of destruction along the route. The Pittsburgh, Ohio Valley and Cincinnati railroad, on the west side of the river, is covered all along from Moundsville to Wegee and in many places the track is washed out and hangs over the river bank. The telephone lines were down through the "narrows." The electric car tracks in the same vicinity are badly damaged and much of the track is pushed out of position.

In the Rogerson oil field a great deal of damage is reported, but no definite information has been received as to its extent. Late last night it was learned that the damage was not great.

East of Moundsville trains were delayed ten hours during the night, by land slides along the Baltimore & Ohio road. The town of Businessburg, O., was completely washed away. Hardly a house remains standing, but by a miracle the residents saved their lives.

There can be no estimate made of the damage, but it will run up into the thousands. All the crops along the creeks in the lowlands are destroyed.

Crews were working all night on both roads and a rivalry seems to be existing between the two railroad companies as to which one will get trestles built first, ready for running trains through. By this evening it is expected that the two roads will be open temporarily.

## EARLY THIS MORNING.

Another Section of the Terminal Trestle Goes Down—The Abutment at the Baltimore & Ohio Station Still Stands.

This morning about 1:30 o'clock another section of the Terminal trestle went down into the creek, and it is thought very probable that more will soon follow, though now that the waters

so much grass and covered with debris from the sides of the hill and stones and dirt from the creek. The people were alarmed from the very first and it is well for them they were, for had it not been for the fact that the families in the lowlands retreated to the hill-sides and took shelter under friendly trees out of reach of the flood or with more fortunately situated neighbors, more lives would have been lost. As it was not a human life was lost on Wegee and only two were lost on Pipe creek, the next hollow south of Wegee. A great deal of stock was carried away, but some of the cows, hogs and horses went away with the stock and carried with the drift until it lodged somewhere below scrambled to the hill-sides. Other stock was carried to the very mouth of the creek and was saved after the storm had spent its fury. The narrow escape of some families was thrilling in the extreme, so quickly did the flood come, and the ruined pathway of the rush of water was a difficult one to travel, but an intelligence reporter made his way over a portion of it yesterday and found for two miles or more of that valley the crops almost entirely washed out or ruined.

The Bellaire, Zanesville & Cincinnati railroad together with all the bridges along that creek except one were swept away, for nearly three miles. The road-bed and bridges went out into the Ohio river and the track and ties are scattered over the fields. The dwelling houses of Nicholas Trux and Samuel Heath were swept away with the greater part of the contents and landed in the river or the pile of drift at the mouth of the creek. The barn and stable of McMillen Bros., together with all their harness, wagons, farming implements and 14,000 fruit cans for the canning factory were swept away. The families deserted the houses and went to places of safety on the hill-sides. The McMillens got part of their horses out and to safety but before they could return all else was gone. Their house was threatened but did not go. The Presbyterian church was swept from its foundation, but was left a practical wreck just off the foundation. The water was eighteen inches in the home of Henry Fish when the storm had spent its fury and began to recede. Byers Brice had some of his cattle swept away and his crops destroyed, but his home remains intact and he recovered all the cattle except one cow. Charles Butler had one cow swept with the drift to the mouth of the creek, where she was recovered unharmed. Other cattle and hogs and two or three horses were swept down to that point from up the creek, but all were gotten out alive except one.

The county bridge near the mouth of this creek was swept out entirely and the one just north on Putney's run is wrecked, but still holding. It will have to be rebuilt. The devastation in two or three miles along Wegee creek is incalculable. Corn fields are flat, with timber, brush, mud and stones piled in confusion all over them. So are the oats fields, the potato patches. Some of the wheat was gathered, but that left out on the bottom was swept away. The potatoes were washed out and away in large stretches and this is true of the corn, while the crops left in the large area of the territory along the creek will be valueless.

One of the horses carried away with McMillen Bros. stable was swept out into the Ohio river and when the stable went to pieces the horse swam to the West Virginia shore and was found yesterday with only a few bruises.

## Putney's Run.

Putney's came out with such force as to damage all the fields on either side of it, but no houses were swept away. George Workey and family were driven out of their house and spent the time under a walnut tree in the drenching rain, but their house did not go, though it had four feet of water in it at the edge of that run and the county bridge just below them was torn up and rendered useless.

Pineh run came out with less fury than Wegee creek, being in the north edge of the storm, but that run was swelled to a dangerous height, and it swept along with such fury as to carry away the piling of the Ohio Valley and the Bellaire, Zanesville & Cincinnati railroads at the mouth, rendering both roads useless until repairs can be made. All along both lines from the southern limits of the city the torrents of water from the hillsides swept away the road bed and made the tracks dangerous.

## Along Pipe Creek

The scene was not very different from that along Wegee. This creek heads near the head of Wegee and the storm seems to have burst upon both with equal fury. More houses were swept away by this creek than on Wegee, but there were more houses on it to be caught. It was impossible to get along on account of the bridges swept away and the roads being impassable, but it is known that at least six houses were swept away and ruined and others damaged. With one of them Mrs. James Berry and her babe went down to their death. This house was located near the mouth of the creek and when the family was first aroused by the storm Mr. Berry carried his little boy to a cave on the side of the hill, near the house, for safety, and returned for his wife and babe. They had just got to the door when a heavy pile of drift swept against the house and tore it from the foundation. The mother was thrown down, but the husband clung to her until a mighty swirl carried all into the raging flood. Another toss of the house and wife and child were torn away and the husband pinned to the bank, badly bruised from the crash, but unable where he saved his life. The bodies of the wife and babe were found yesterday morning in the debris a short distance below where they were swept away. James Berry is a son of ex-county commissioner W. J. Berry.

The names of the owners of other houses swept out on this creek could not be obtained yesterday, and there was considerable stock lost there. The damage to the Ohio Valley railroad will probably all be repaired by this evening, so that trains can be run to Powhatan, but the Bellaire, Zanesville & Cincinnati road sustains such damage along Wegee creek and other points from there to Bellaire that it will be some time before it is open for business. In the crippled condition of that road the management will be confronted with a very serious problem.

The Wegee pike and the Brook's Run pike running out of Bellaire, were almost swept away in some places. One huge retaining wall on Brook's Run was washed out, and south of that city a portion of the pike was planted on the hillsides several feet below. The hillsides are cut into deep gulches every place touched by the storm.

## Sleep

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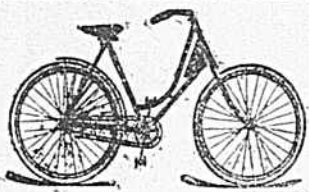
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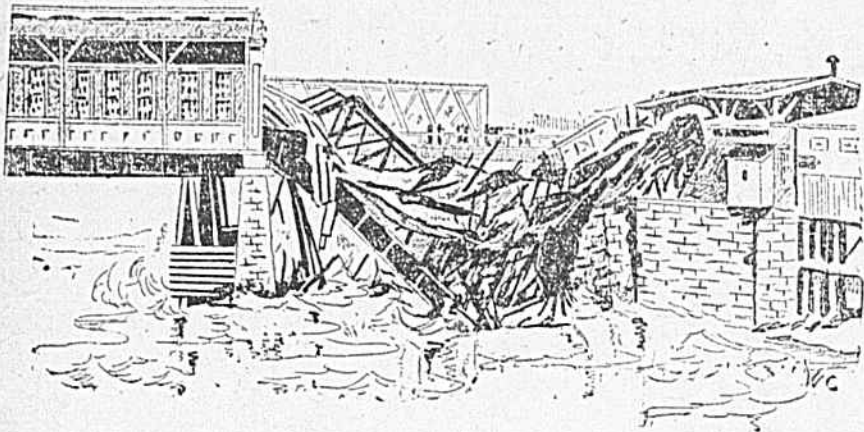
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Elm Grove and the city, but in only one place was the national pike impassable for a time.

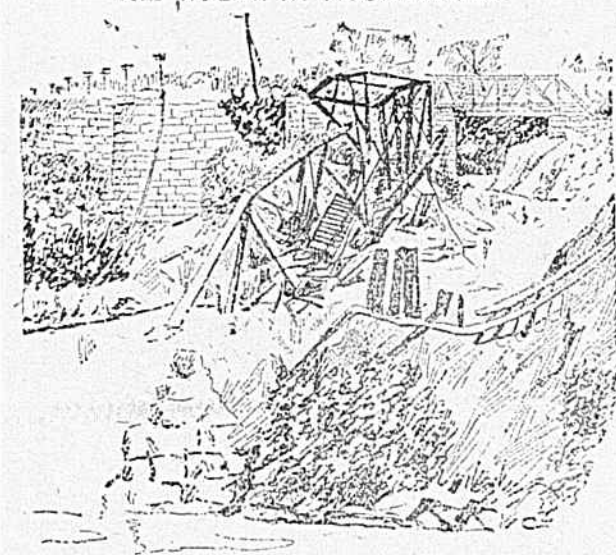
Late last night the Intelligence received information of a fatality on a tributary known as Turkey run, in Marshall county. The house of Peter Ritchie was located on a low piece of ground near the run. Yesterday morning the inmates were awakened by the rush of the waters which had already shaken the house and slightly moved it on its foundations. Before the frightened family could do anything the waters had risen so fast that the house was carried away down the run. All the inmates except an eight-year-old daughter, Sallie Ritchie, succeeded in escaping. The girl was caught in wreckage and drowned.

## BELOW WHEELING

In Marshall County the Waters Did Great Damage—Two Railroad Bridges Washed Away at Moundsville—Land-slide in the "Narrows."

The rains of Saturday, Sunday and Sunday night played havoc in Marshall county, especially in and around Moundsville. It was almost a continual downpour and an estimate of the damage done cannot be made. All traffic on the railways had to be suspended as a result of the washouts. So far only

## THE WRECK AT MOUNDSVILLE.



The Ohio River and Baltimore & Ohio Bridges Washed Away.

two reports of drowning are reported but the narrow escapes were many. At Moundsville the heavy iron bridges of the Baltimore & Ohio and Ohio River railroads across Little Grave Creek were washed out. The south abutments were weakened by the waters and finally succumbed, going down with a crash early yesterday morning. The Ohio River bridge went out at about 2:30 a. m. and about a half hour later the Baltimore & Ohio bridge gave way. Both bridges are demolished. The former was carried a hundred yards out into the river. The other fell down into the creek. The north abutments of both bridges are standing, but they are thought to be unsafe. A great hole is washed where the old abutment stood and it is not certain the foundation can be secured again, but that the tracks will have to be moved out of their present course.

The superintendents and officials of both railroads arrived early in the morning on special trains and began to lay their plans for repairing the wreckage. The Baltimore & Ohio camp ground switch is also washed away for several hundred feet. The low wooden bridges are entirely gone.

At Moundsville, above Moundsville, for a distance of a mile the hillside slipped down, covering the Baltimore & Ohio track completely with mud, stone, trees and rubbish several feet deep. Wrecking crews were gathered up along the road and sent at once to the scene of destruction and set to work clearing off the debris. Late last night the track was cleared so that one passenger train could be run to the Moundsville bridge where the transfer of passengers, baggage, express and mails was made by way of the county road bridge, which luckily escaped destruction, but which is reported in an unsafe condition.

Arrangements were made at the earliest possible time with the steamer Jewel by both railroads to transfer their passengers to Wheeling. The passengers had every convenience un-

Narrows are in a bad shape and will be repaired as soon as possible. The bridges over Grave creek will also have to be entirely replaced as the old structure is at the bottom of the Ohio. Until the breaks between this city and Moundsville are repaired, the company will use the steamer Eliza H. in transferring between the two places. The Eliza H. will leave Wheeling at the house of the departure of all south bound trains, and will meet all north bound trains at Moundsville.

## TWO LIVES LOST

In the Flood that Devastated Pipe Creek Opposite Moundsville—Heartrending Scenes Witnessed Yesterday Afternoon Along the Ohio Side of the River.

Never before was such devastation known along Wegee creek, a few miles south of Bellaire, as that made by the cloud burst early yesterday morning. The storm came up shortly after 2 o'clock in the morning and the roar awakened many even before the rain came, and when it burst upon that valley the rain came down in torrents and Wegee creek suddenly grew into a furious river carrying everything before. The valley is very narrow and winds about with many crooks and turns and the water yesterday morning reached from hill to hill and was from fifteen to twenty feet deep. Houses, outbuildings, bridges and fences and stock were all swept out by the great rush of water like chips.

Not a railroad bridge along the Bellaire, Zanesville & Cincinnati railroad and scarcely any of that road was left from Irwin's station to Wegee, a distance of over two miles. How the houses left standing along that creek escaped by a miracle, can only be accounted for by the many crooks and bends in the hillside breaking the force of the storm. Acres of corn in tassels was mowed down like